

Bright Supports National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Bobby Bright voted in favor of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2010. The bill passed by a unanimous, bi-partisan 61-0 vote out of the Armed Services Committee early this morning. The NDAA authorizes \$550 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense (DOD) and national security programs at the Department of Energy. It also authorizes \$130 billion to support American troops in military operations overseas, reducing the need for future emergency supplemental appropriations. The bill now goes to the full house for consideration.

"The National Defense Authorization Act is a product of bipartisan efforts to ensure that our soldiers and their families are appropriately honored and supported," Bright said. "This bill makes critical investments in our national security and sets the Department of Defense on the right path. I want to thank Chairman Ike Skelton, Ranking Member Buck McKeon, and the Armed Services Committee Staff for their hard work on passing a bipartisan bill for which we can all be proud."

During committee debate, Congressmen Bright and Duncan Hunter, Jr. (R-CA) successfully offered an amendment to fund Unfunded Requirements (UFR) for the military. The amendment helps fully fund equipment requirements for the Army and Marine Corps that are otherwise short on resources. These projects have been validated by the Army and Department of Defense as critical needs to meet service requirements in support of combat operations.

"Too many times, we have seen the federal government create programs or requirements but fail to fully fund them, and the Department of Defense is no exception," Bright said. "Our amendment helps fund programs that otherwise would not get the full support they deserve."

Additionally, Congressman Bright successfully added report language into the NDAA that expresses the sense of the committee that the Department of Defense should award the KC-X tanker contract on a "best value" basis rather than a simple low-cost standard. This language encourages the DOD to examine the costs of the entire lifecycle of the contract, including development, procurement, and sustainment. The language will help ensure a fair bidding process, and would provide the Air Force with an elite tanker at the best value.

The NDAA also makes some important decisions regarding missile defense, focusing on short and mid-range missiles, critical for defending known threats from countries such as North Korea and Iran. The Armed Services Committee crafted the budget for missile defense in close consultation with Secretary of Defense Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen, and other generals who are experts in missile defense. Particularly beneficial to the Second District is the increased funding for the THAAD Missile, which is built in Troy. Congressman Bright, however, supported an amendment to restore \$120 million to continue Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) fielding in Alaska, which uses missiles built in north Alabama.

The Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, on which Congressman Bright sits, authorized \$101 billion for procurement and research and development (R&D), ensuring that America's soldiers and airmen are fully equipped to carry out their missions. Both Fort Rucker, home of Army Aviation, and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base stand to benefit from the increased subcommittee budget.

"In this year's defense bill, Mr. Bright's hard work has allowed us to take great steps towards ensuring that critical Army

aviation assets are available to our troops as they conduct their critical missions around the world," Armed Services Committee Chairman Skelton said. "Providing the materials and guidance the Army needs to care for our fleet enables our troops to perform these missions to the utmost of their abilities."

Some specific provisions in the bill are below:

- Provides a 3.4% pay raise for all service members, a .5% increase over the President's budget request
- Increases the size of the military by 15,000 Army troops, 8,000 Marines, 14,650 Air Force personnel, and 2,477 Navy sailors
- \$1.2 billion for Army barracks improvements and sustainment requirements for base facilities and infrastructure
- \$6.9 billion for equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserve
- Expands TRICARE health coverage to reserve component members and their families for 180 days prior (up from 90 days) to mobilization
- Continues previous efforts in the Armed Services Committee on acquisition reform, increasing the civilian acquisition workforce and reducing the Department of Defense's reliance on contractors for acquisition functions
- Increases funding for nuclear nonproliferation programs to prevent the global spread of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear material
- Prevents detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba from being transferred into the United States until the President has presented a detailed plan and consulted with Governors and/or the chief executives of territories and the District of Columbia

"Not only does this bill give our troops the tools they need, it improves the quality of life for soldiers and their families," Bright said. "I am particularly pleased that the committee provided soldiers with a 3.4% pay raise, which is essential for bringing military pay closer in line with the private sector. It also increases the size of our military during a time in which we are fighting two wars overseas, ensuring that our military strength will always be second to none."

To read a fully summary of the bill, please visit <http://armedservices.house.gov/> or [click here](#).